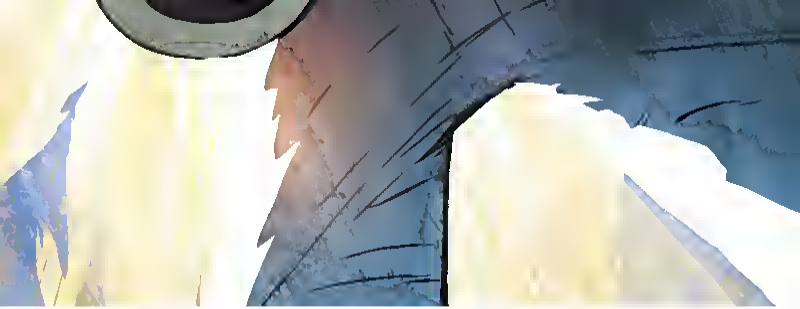
Hands up
ya little booger!



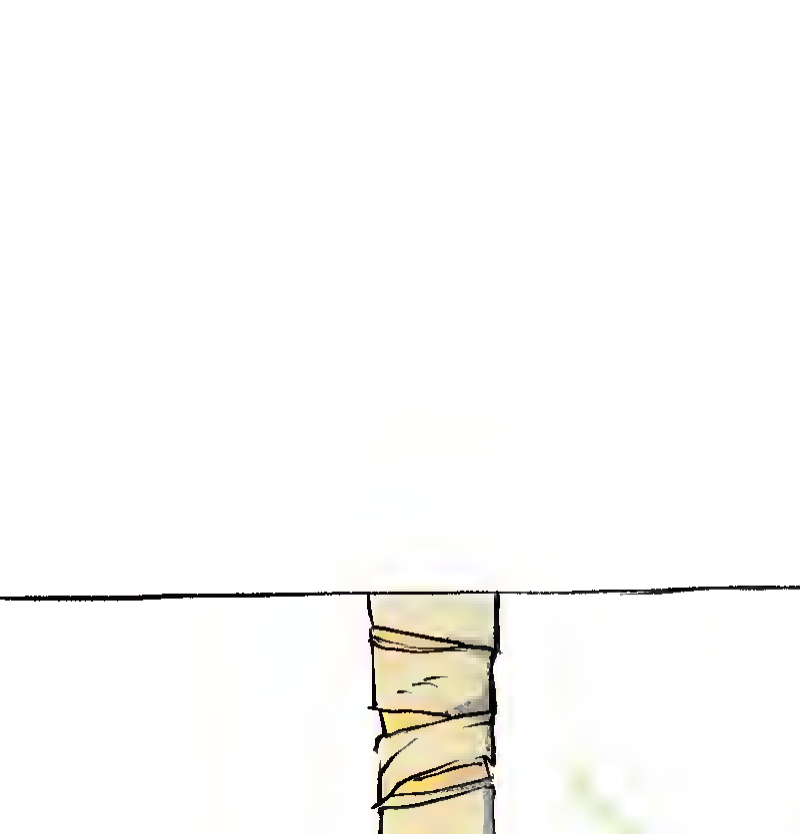
by

Jason Brubaker

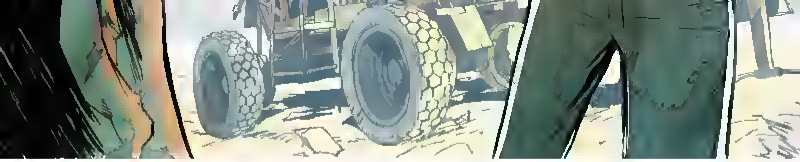
Book 3

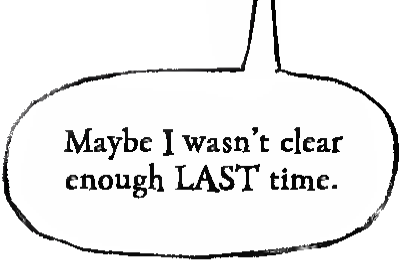
The Gun and the Symbol

I said,
'hands up!'



"I told you and your friends to stay out of here."

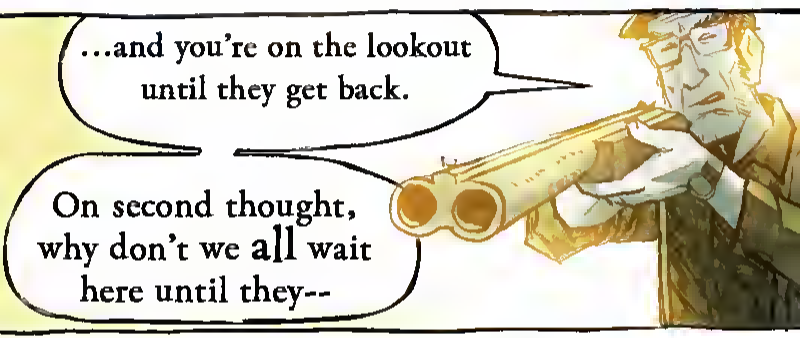



Maybe I wasn't clear
enough LAST time.

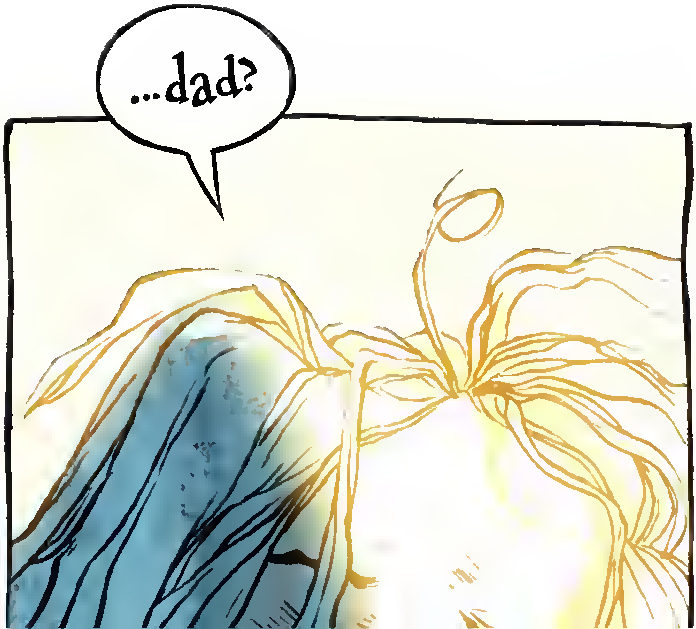
Last time?
Mister, trust me...

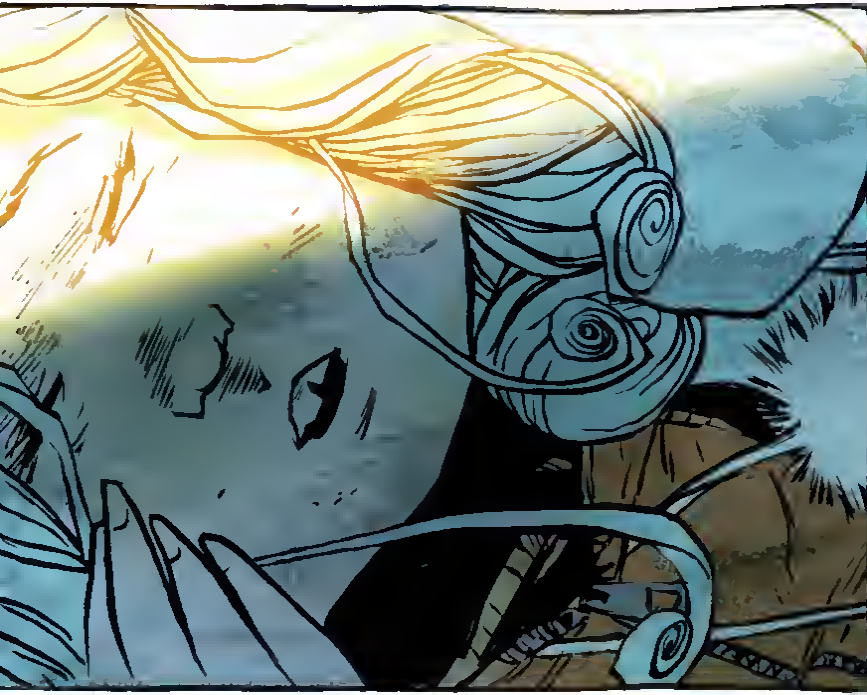
...if we'd already HAD this conversation once, we wouldn't be HAVING it again.

Yeah, right.
More like, your friends looted all they could carry outta this plane...

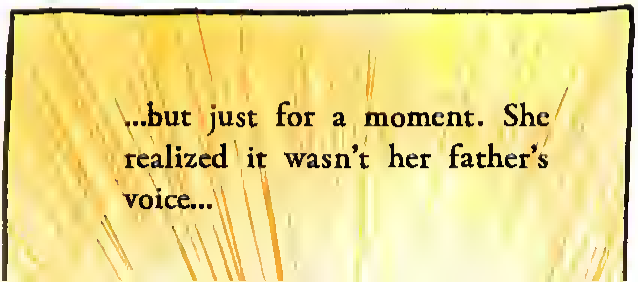

...and you're on the lookout until they get back.
On second thought, why don't we all wait here until they--

Ugh...
What are you guys yelling about?


...dad?

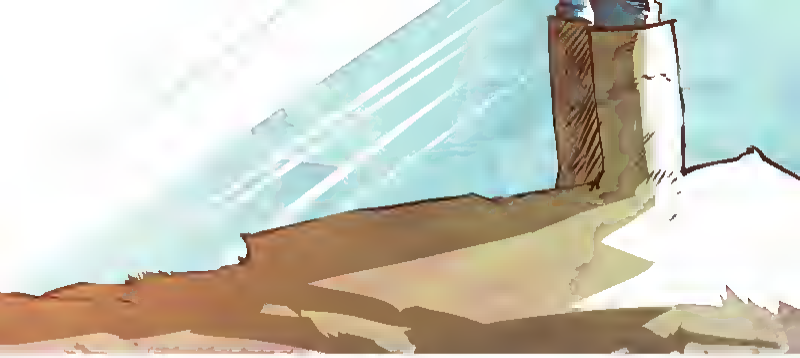


Still wiping the sleep from her eyes, Vonna recognized the shape of a man, and her heart leapt in her chest...



...and her heart sank back down to her stomach.

"What are you--? You're too young to be a looter," the old man was startled. "Still, this is private property and you shouldn't be out here."



"I told you, it's not what you think," Dino tried to reason with the man, "We don't have anything to do with whoever ransacked this plane, but we are waiting for someone."

"It's my dad." Vonna swallowed her nervousness. "This is his plane. Our plane, I mean."

The old man glanced back and forth between Vonna and her companion, sizing them up. Did he believe them? Vonna didn't know.

"Looks like it was a bad crash, you're lucky you survived," the old man's face softened.

"My name's Henry," he said. "I live just down the road. I saw this plane go down and knew it wouldn't take long for the looters to pick it apart. I came this morning to haul it back to my place. You should come too, miss..."

"Vonna," she answered, relieved. "And this is Dino."

'We don't know this guy,' Dino thought to himself. 'She's telling him too much.'

But before the young man could protest, Henry said, "It's too dangerous to leave you kids out here alone. Gather whatever you need and I'll take you back up to the house."

"I'm going to pull the plane behind us," Henry answered, "We'll leave a trail he can follow right to us."

COFFEE TABLE COMICS
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